

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 03779 041315Z

41

ACTION PM-04

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R 040843Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2235

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3779

STADIS//////////

FOR PM - GEORGE VEST FROM BREMER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NO

SUBJ: GUIDANCE ON MAAG REDUCTION

1. THE AMBASSADOR HAS BEGUN AN INTENSIVE REVIEW OF OUR MAAG STAFFING AND FUNCTIONS IN LIGHT OF THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION AND EUCOM'S APPARENT DECISION TO CUT OUR MAAG BACK TO THREE OFFICERS BY SEPTEMBER 30, 1976. WE ARE EXAMINING A FULL RANGE OF OPTIONS ON HOW WE BELIEVE THE MAAG SHOULD BE ORGANIZED AND STAFFED, AND WILL FORWARD OUR CONCLUSIONS TO THE APPROPRIATE OFFICES IN DUE COURSE.

2. ONE SUB-OPTION WE ARE LOOKING AT IS TO HAVE THE DAO OFFICE PERFORM CERTAIN PURELY ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS IN SUPPORT OF THE RESIDUAL MAAG. WE ARE THINKING OF SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES SUCH AS PREPARING AND PROCESSING TRAVEL VOUCHERS, MONTHLY ALLOWANCE PAYROLLS FOR MAAG PERSONNEL, MAINTAINING AN ACCOUNTING SYSTEM FOR MAAG ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, MAINTAINING TIME AND ATTENDANCE RECORDS ON ALL MAAG PERSONNEL, ETC. IF WE CAN MOVE FUNCTIONS SUCH AS THESE TO THE DAO OFFICE, IT MAY ALLOW US TO RATIONALIZE THE RESIDUAL MAAG'S STAFFING PATTERN, THOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET MADE A FINAL DECISION ON THE MATTER.

3. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US HERE WHETHER HAVING THE DAO'S OFFICE PROVIDE SUCH ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO THE RESIDUAL MAAG WOULD VIOLATE THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT. SPECIFICALLY, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT SECTION 104 (B) (2) STATES THAT AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 1977, THE DAO CANNOT PERFORM SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS QUOTE OR

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PAGE 02 OSLO 03779 041315Z

RELATED ACTIVITIES UNQUOTE. DOES THE PHRASE QUOTE OR RELATED

ACTIVITIES UNQUOTE NECESSARILY PROSCRIBE THE DAO FROM PERFORMING
THE KIND OF PURELY ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TASKS OUTLINED IN PARA
TWO ABOVE?

4. BEFORE WE TREAD FURTHER INTO THE BUREAUCRATIC THICKET HTERE,
WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY GUIDANCE YOU CAN GIVE US ON WHAT THE LEGAL
CONSTRAINTS MIGHT BE. MANY THANKS.
ANDERS

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